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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,182	01/21/2004	Kia Silverbrook	MPA04US	2162

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SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD
393 DARLING STREET
BALMAIN, NSW 2041
AUSTRALIA

EXAMINER

LEBRON, JANNELLE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2861

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/760,182.

Applicant(s)

SILVERBROOK ET AL.

Examiner

Jannelle M. Lebron

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: "at least *one* printhead integrated circuit [line 5]" should be replaced with "at least *two* printhead integrated circuits." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. (US Patent 6,409,323).
4. Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead module (12 in fig. 2) for a printhead assembly, comprising:
 - Claim 1:
at least two printhead integrated circuits (18 in fig. 2) each having nozzles (42 in fig. 3) formed therein for delivering printing fluid onto the surface of print media, a support member (28 in fig. 2) supporting and carrying printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits, and at least two fluid distribution members (26 in fig. 11)

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each mounting one of the at least two printhead integrated circuits (18) to the support member (28) and distributing the printing fluid from the support member (28) to the printhead integrated circuits (18),

wherein a lower surface of each of the at least two fluid distribution members (26) is attached to an upper surface of the support member (28) by an adhesive material (column 6, lines 14-29).

- Claim 2:

wherein the at least two printhead integrated circuits (18), the support member (28) and the at least two fluid distribution members (26) are formed as a unitary arrangement with an electrical connector for connecting electrical signals to the at least two printhead integrated circuits (column 3, lines 59-65); and

the support member (28) has at least one longitudinally extending channel for carrying the printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits (18) and includes a plurality of apertures (as shown in figure 8) extending through a wall of the support member (28) arranged so as to direct the printing fluid from the at least one channel to associated nozzles in the printhead integrated circuits (18) by way of respective ones of the fluid distribution members (column 4, lines 41-44).

- Claim 3:

wherein the adhesive material is deposited to form a gasket which surrounds each of the apertures of the support member (28) and each of corresponding apertures formed in the lower surface of the fluid distribution members (26) so as to form a seal between the respective apertures (as shown in figure 8 and 11; column 6, lines 14-40).

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- Claim 4:

wherein the apertures of the support member (28) are formed in a row extending across the support member with respect to the longitudinally extending direction of the support member (as shown in figure 8); and

two deposits of the adhesive material are deposited on either side of the row of apertures to provide stability for the mounting arrangement (column 6, lines 16-20).

- Claim 6:

wherein the printhead module is arranged to be removably mounted to the printhead assembly (column 1, line 66 – column 2, line 5).

- Claim 7:

wherein the support member (28) is formed with a plurality of the channels (72), each of which is arranged to carry a different printing fluid for direction to associated groups of the nozzles in the printhead integrated circuits (18) by way of respective ones of the fluid distribution members (column 2, lines 17-19, 59-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook et al. (US Patent 6,439,908) in view of Lu et al. (US 2003/0007042).

Silverbrook et al. teaches a sealing adhesive; however, it does not disclose the sealing adhesive being a curable resin.

Lu et al. discloses a sealing adhesive being a epoxy, a type of resin (paragraph 0017).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the disclosure of Silverbrook et al. with that of Lu et al. in order to create a more durable apparatus.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook et al. (US Patent 6,439,908) in view of Silverbrook (WO 2001/089849).

Silverbrook et al. meets the claimed limitations as set forth above in claim 1, except "a support member formed with a further channel (82) for delivering air to the at least two printhead integrated circuits for maintaining the nozzles of the at least two printhead integrated circuits substantially free from impurities."

Silverbrook teaches an ink distribution structure that supplies air to each print chip (27) via an air inlet port (61) thus preventing the build-up of any dust or unwanted contaminants at the apertures (44) in the nozzle guard (page 7, lines 5-9).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a channel for delivering air to the printhead circuits. One would have been motivated to modify the invention to improve print quality as taught by Silverbrook.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 10 and 11 is the inclusion of the limitation of a printhead module for a printhead assembly that includes laminated stack distribution layers and the middle layer has smaller apertures than the apertures of the lower layer, and the upper layer has smaller apertures than the apertures of the middle layer. It is this limitation found in the claims, as it is claimed in the combination of, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Response to Amendment

10. It has been noted that claim 7 has been labeled as "Original" even though it has been amended. Applicant is advised to correct this problem on a next communication.

Response to Arguments

11. The drawings and specification have been amended and a terminal disclaimer has been submitted.

12. Applicant's arguments filed 2/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Silverbrook et al. ('908) does not disclose an arrangement in which modules in which modules have more than one printhead chip; however, a "printhead chip" is not claimed. Applicant claims a "printhead integrated circuits", and in column 14, lines 49-50, Silverbrook et al. discloses sixteen data connections.

Furthermore, the current application contains integrated printhead circuits 51 on tiles 50 that are arranged on top of the fluid channel member 40, which extends the length of the printhead as can be seen in figure 4A. As stated in paragraph (0090) of the present application, "as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, sixteen printhead tiles 50 [each with one integrated printhead circuit 51 as seen in figure 5A] are provided in the printhead module 30." In figures 1 and 2, the arrow of 30 is pointing to a single printhead tile/integrated circuit, but the figures show that there are sixteen printhead tile/integrated circuits comprising the entire length of the printhead. Therefore, if sixteen printhead tiles are provided in the printhead module as stated, then the module must be the entire length of the apparatus shown in figures 1 and 2, with one fluid channel member 40 (or a series of sixteen interconnected fluid channel members) containing sixteen sets of outlet ports 42 as shown in figure 4A, and sixteen printhead tiles/integrated circuits on the upper surface of that one fluid channel member (or series of fluid channel members). Hence, either each printhead module (indicated by the arrow of 30 in figures 1 and 2) has only one printhead tile/integrated circuit, which contradicts the claim, or the printhead module is to be taken to mean the entire length

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shown in figures 1 and 2 where the module has at least two printhead tiles/integrated circuits and is shown in the figures with sixteen printhead tiles/integrated circuits.

A similar analysis can be applied to the cited reference, and the printhead module 10 can be taken to mean the entire length shown in figure 2 to satisfy the claimed printhead module of the instant application.

Applicant also argues that Silverbrook et al. does not teach or suggest one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed assembly; however, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the present invention with Lu et al., since the Silverbrook et al. invention includes an adhesive but does not disclose it being specifically curable resin and Lu discloses this type of adhesive, which can be used on any type of printhead. Furthermore, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the present invention with Silverbrook ('849) to supply air to each integrated circuit to maintain them free of contaminants.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

14. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jannelle M. Lebron whose telephone number is (571) 272-2729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JML
04/18/2006


LAMSON NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
04/27/06